



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 524
Newark, CA 94560-0524
(510)792-0222

Dear Interested Parties:

This letter announces the availability for public review three documents concerning waterfowl hunting on the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge's (Refuge) former commercial salt ponds purchased from Cargill Salt in 2003: (1) Amendment to Refuge Hunting Plan for Waterfowl on 5,500 acres of Former Commercial Salt Ponds, (2) draft Environmental Assessment and (3) Compatibility Determination. The public comment period for these documents will close on December 3, 2004.

In this Amendment to the existing Refuge Hunt Program, the Refuge proposes to open approximately 2,622 acres of salt ponds to waterfowl hunting three days a week. This would bring the total acreage of the Refuge open to hunting to 10,285 acres (33%). On this 30,000 acre Refuge, 19,715 acres would be sanctuary (66%). In addition to this alternative, the environmental assessment analyzes two other alternatives: (1) no hunting on the 5,500 acres of recently acquired property and (2) opening 5,000 acres of the ponds to waterfowl hunting. The Compatibility Determination evaluates the compatibility of the proposed Hunt Plan Amendment with the purposes of the Refuge and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The three documents are available on the following website: <http://desfbay.fws.gov>. They can be found under the document section of the web site. Copies are available on compact disk which can be obtained by contacting the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 524, Newark, California 94560, (510)792-0222. Copies of the three documents are also available for review at the Refuge headquarters: 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, California and the Environmental Education Center of the Refuge: 1751 Grand Boulevard, Alviso, California. Directions to these facilities can be found on the web site above or by calling the office phone number listed above.

Comments regarding the documents should be addressed to Clyde Morris, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 524, Newark California, 94560. Written comments may be sent by facsimile to (510) 792-5828 or by email to <sfbaynwrc@rl.fws.gov>. All comments must be received by December 3, 2004. All comments received will become part of the public record and may be released.

Thank you for your interest in this proposal.

Sincerely,

/s/ Clyde Morris
Manager,
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR